S.No.	Item	Target 1998-99		
		NE	Assam	Total
1.	Switching Capacity	452000	68000	113200
2.	DELs	32000	50000	82000
3.	Village Public Telephone (VPTs)	1000	2900	3900
4.	Microwave UHF Systems (RKMs)	330	831	1161
5.	Satellite Earth Stations	15	Nil	15

Recommendations of TRAI Regarding Telephone Charges

532. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended hefty hike in telephone rental charges and local calls while proposing reduction in international calls;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by TRAI alongwith justification, their impact and implications and other related matters as per working paper;

(c) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(d) the details of estimated additional revenue likely to be collected by Government as a result of the proposed hike with State-wise break-up in general and Maharashtra State in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The TRAI formed under the TRAI Act, 1997 has brought out a Consultation paper on Telecom Pricing suggesting inter-alia increase in rental and reduction in long distance tariff for rebalancing the tariff based on costs.

(b) to (d) The proposals of TRAI summarised at Annexure [*See* appendix 185, Annexure No. 13] are at present being discussed by TRAI with Service providers, various Consumer Organisations and general public for their response. applications of these proposals

Action Plan for Reliable and Efficient Postal Communication

533. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal department has drawn up an action plan to become self sufficient and generate surplus resources through innovative schemes and create a reliable and efficient postal communication;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the agenda of major problems discussed in the recent conference of Chief Post Masters and decision taken thereon;

(d) what is the action taken report on the recommendations of Talwar Committees; and

(e) the details of major achievements during the Eighth Plan period and major programme proposed during the current year and Ninth Plan, particularly for Maharashtra State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) For generating additional resources for the department some Premium products/Services like Speed Post, Business Post, Commercial Publicity and Express Post are already in operation. Steps are being taken to further upgrade these services with a view to improving market share and providing better service to the customers. An Action Plan has also been drawn up to introduce in a phased manner some new products and services like, Greeting Post,